

GERMAN LINE WAS AGAIN SMASHED AT TWO POINTS

Renewed Drive by British Yesterday Rolled Up More of "Hindenburg's" Line.

Fierce Fighting All Day, the Foe Showing Much Better Spirit.

GEN. HAIG'S REPORT.

London, Cable.—The official report from British headquarters in France to-night reads:

"Fierce fighting occurred throughout the day from west of Quant to north of Fresnoy. The enemy again employed large reserves of men and guns, and delivered repeated counter-attacks practically along the whole front. These hostile forces suffered heavily from our concentrated artillery and machine gun fire, both while assembling prior to the attack and during the actual assault. In the face of obstinate resistance our troops this morning penetrated a sector of the Hindenburg line west of Quant, and have maintained themselves there all day against constant and powerful counter-attacks.

"Further progress also was made in the neighborhood of Cherisy, astride the Arras-Cambrai bank of the Scarpe, where the positions, which changed hands frequently and were defended with great determination, are now in our possession.

"On the left of the battlefield we captured the village of Fresnoy, and the enemy's positions south and north of Fresnoy, on a front of two miles. We also gained a footing in the enemy's trench system north of Oppy.

"Progress was made at other points, and the fighting continues. In addition to the enemy's severe losses in killed and wounded, we captured several hundred of German prisoners."

(By R. T. Small, Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press.)

British Headquarters in France, Cable. After 4 days of calm fighting on a large scale was resumed along a wide front to-day, and more important strategic points fell into British hands. Including the village of Fresnoy, several miles north of the Scarpe River, and the ground about Cherisy, some distance south of that somewhat insignificant stream.

Between Fontaine-les-Croisilles and Bullecourt about 600 yards more of the original Hindenburg line, which ran from Quant in a northwesterly direction towards Arras, was penetrated and rolled up. This fighting was close to the Quant-Hindenburg line new emergency trench system, extending north from there to Drocourt. Work on this new system is proceeding with feverish haste, according to prisoners, and the stubborn resistance the Germans are now offering is to prevent the necessity of their occupying the new line before it is ready for prolonged defensive action.

To-day's range of operations covered virtually eighteen miles, although the pressure was not exerted over this entire front. There was artillery activity at all points, however, and the stronger German positions were fairly deluged with shells.

THE FIGHTING BEFORE DAWN. The fighting began just before dawn, and continued throughout a day of glorious sunshine. The troops moving up in support of those actually in the firing line passed along roads whose overhanging trees were tipped with the first fresh green leaves of the renewed life of spring. The fields back of the battle front were yellow with cowslips and dandelions; birds were singing, and the air was filled with the hum of insects. A warm east wind stirred up great clouds of dust, and the men were white with the chalk powder blown from the roads.

As the marching columns reached the battle zone, however, all was changed. The trees became only gaunt, black skeletons; the once fair field had been pitted and scarred and watered under the shell fire until the earth itself was killed by the poisonous blasts, and no living thing could grow thereon even under this first warm impulse of the new season. The only melodies were the deep-throated roars of cannon, the whine of shells, the whistle of bullets.

Under the soft light of a May moon the British guns roared the artillery preparation at intervals during the night, but it was not until the faint rays had disappeared behind the western horizon that the real bombardment began. In its intensified form it was of short duration. Then the guns settled into barrage work as the troops stole out from their forward trenches, or shallow shelters, hastily dug in the ground during the more recent advances.

It was still half an hour before dawn, and the morning mists gave a deeper density to the darkness.

STIFF FIGHTING FROM THE FIRST. There was stiff fighting from the very first, and everywhere along the line the Germans offered desperate resistance. Since the battle of Arras began on Easter Monday the Germans have concentrated great numbers of guns opposite the British, and lately they have been firing with almost reckless extravagance. Much of the shooting has been absolutely blind, since the British took all the high ridges, the Germans being unable to get more than momentary observation with aeroplanes and balloons.

This morning the British creeping barrage fire, which swept like a great trellis work of exploding shells in front of the attacking troops, was met by a furious defensive curtain of fire, for half an hour or more the artillery display was one of the most wonderful seen during the war. At the north of the line the Canadian

troops, who occupied Arleux several days ago, pushed forward and took Fresnoy.

A German officer asserted that the morale of the troops opposite the British front was better than during the battle of the Somme. He said that the German soldiers now see their aeroplanes about. They also seem to be getting sorely needed artillery support during the last three weeks. There had been much complaint about the lack of this support, and the infantrymen had begun to regard themselves merely as targets for the British artillery. The officer declared that the feeling was all changed now and that the Germans believe their artillery equal to any.

Oddly enough, German shells began to pelt about the prisoners' collecting station with deafening reports, so characteristic of the German high explosives, and the Germans had to be moved to a safer spot.

AUSTRALIANS PARTICIPATE. Good progress was made east of Guemappe, along the Arras-Cambrai road, and British troops, pushing through Cherisy, south of that road, swept several hundred yards beyond their first objectives. There was heavy fighting about Fontaine-les-Croisilles and Bullecourt, in which the Australians took part. There was also more fighting about Oppy, to which the Germans are still clinging.

The wood west of this village is very dense, and is fairly bristling with machine guns, some of which have been mounted in the trees. This wood also is one continuous tangle of barbed wire stretched from tree to tree. The Germans are holding desperately to two woods west of Monchy-le-Preux, known as the Bois du Sart and Bois du Vert, and have connected the two with elaborate trenches.

Heavy counterattacks were attempted time and time again during the day, and from every section of the battlefield come echoes of the never-ceasing artillery duel.

CONSPICUOUS GAINS. London, May 8.—Fighting of terrible intensity raged throughout the day at the main points of the British attack, says Reuter's correspondent at British headquarters. "The battling," he adds, "has been in many places of ding-dong order, which renders it extremely difficult to define the situation, but I think it may certainly be claimed as a successful day for our gallant troops. The most conspicuous gains have been on the flanks of the long front, while towards the centre, up to the valley of the Scarpe, have made less progress owing to the intensity of concealed machine gun fire.

"Despite the opposition of massed German forces, the Canadian troops took Fresnoy. Oppy, however, still proved too strongly held to attempt to carry it by direct attack without incurring a heavier casualty list than the enterprise warranted. The wood in front of the ruined village literally was infested with machine guns.

"The Germans are fighting with desperate obstinacy. Machine guns were perched in trees at various heights, while lines of uncured wire were discovered in gullies which concealed them from direct observation as well as from the searching effect of our barrage, so that the attack upon this place amounted to little more than a reconnaissance in force, and our troops withdrew to enable the gunners to concentrate their fire upon the newly discovered obstacles.

"South of the Scarpe the battle developed into a most successful sapping movement, our troops reaching Cherisy. Converging tactics upon Reincourt carried our advance across the Hindenburg line and threatened to cut off the garrison at Bullecourt. The wariness was reported to have been captured, but the report was not confirmed.

"The Germans are fighting with desperate obstinacy. Several new divisions have been identified at different parts of the front, showing that the Germans continue to use their strategic reserves. Counter-attacks, usually on a formidable scale, developed frequently opposite every point where we gained ground. The enemy recaptured some ground at Gavrelle, but the counter-attacks generally were broken up by our artillery fire, which was maintained with almost incredible intensity."

AUSTRALIANS TRUE TO RACE

Thrilling Story of Courage When Troopship Sank.

Ballarat Was Torpedoed On "Anzac Day."

London Cable.—A special despatch to the Times says the story of the sinking of the troopship Ballarat is one of the most stirring tales of fortitude which has ever been told, even of Australians. The vessel carried 1,400 troops. Throughout the voyage the colonel of the Victorian Scottish, who was in command, put the men

frequently through the boats' station until he had reduced the time required for assembling to four minutes. The men had arranged a programme for the celebration of "Anzac Day," starting with a memorial service at 2.30. At five past two they were beginning to muster in full uniform, when a torpedo was seen moving toward the ship on the port side. The lookout by the gun of the stern telephoned to the bridge. The great ship swung round quickly. In another two seconds she would have escaped, but a resounding sound told that the torpedo had struck the ship. She began to settle rapidly. A few soldiers say they saw a periscope 500 yards away.

With exemplary coolness every man took his place, and in four minutes everything was ready for abandoning the ship. The soldiers sang, but the parade was chiefly notable for their absolute calmness and cheerfulness. All wore life-belts. The ship seemed to be sinking fast. The colonel stood on the bridge undismayed, and several times called to the men: "We're all right, boys; keep steady." The men replied: "It's all right, sir; we're all right."

The commander gave the order to abandon the ship. Nine boats were lowered in perfect order. While the men were embarking in the boats they continued to show cheerful spirits. One of the officers told his company: "You may smoke on this parade, boys." Many lit cigarettes. Others carried the battalion pets, squirrels, dogs, puppies and parrots. When the soldiers embarked in the boats they sang, "Australia Will Be There."

A few minutes later the engineer reported that the ship was able to go ahead, the damage to the propeller having been repaired. The boats were recalled, and the men went on board again. Then the colonel called for volunteers for the stokehold. Hundreds responded, and 40 were selected, but were unable to go, as the water gained rapidly, and the ship was sinking steadily. Three destroyers and a trawler came up at top speed, and all of the troops and some of the crew were transhipped in a few minutes after 4 o'clock.

During the whole critical time the only nurses on board, Sisters Tallow, of Victoria, and Lord, of Tasmania, who were great favorites with the troops, had shown conspicuous courage, going from company to company helping the men fasten their lifebelts. The three chaplains also rendered aid. Great cheers were given when the patrol vessels moved away after the Ballarat troops had been landed late at night.

CONFISCATE ENTIRE CROP

Germany So Notifies the Farming Community.

Only One-Quarter to Be Left for Them.

Amsterdam Cable.—The whole of Germany's coming grain harvest will be requisitioned by the Government, according to Dr. George Heim, Bavarian member of the Centre party in the Reichstag. In a speech at Neustadt Dr. Heim warned the farmers to be prepared for new and heavier restrictions. He said that from the moment of the first ripening the entire crop would be confiscated, and that only from one-quarter to one-third of the crop would be left to the farmers. Everything would be organized on military lines.

The farmers, according to Dr. Heim, are to receive the maximum price in addition to a bonus for early threshing. This measure, he said, was absolutely necessary in order to ensure the period of transition to the new harvest.

Dr. Heim then proceeded to condemn the Imperial Chancellor's economic policy as having failed to show sufficient foresight, and was therefore responsible for existing conditions.

WHOLESALE FRAUD. Conspiracy Alleged to Have Wrecked Insurance Co.

Pittsburg Report.—Representative of the Attorney-General and constables from an auditor's office examined the records of the savings bank of J. Denny O'Neil, insurance commissioner of Pennsylvania, of conspiring to defraud the Pittsburg Life Insurance Company out of \$1,900,000. None of the men could be located in Pittsburg, and it was said the search would be transferred to New York, where most of them reside. The men for whom warrants were obtained are: Clarence F. Birdseye, New York; Kellors Birdseye, treasurer of the company; Geo. Montgomery, Robert R. Moore, president of the Commercial Trust Company, of New York; Albert Leury, of New York, and W. C. McCausland and a Mr. Watson, whose addresses were not given.

It was intimated that additional warrants were to be sworn out, and that other men would be involved in the prosecution.

Discussing the condition of the company, Mr. O'Neil said his examination led him to believe that the company's capital \$1,000,000, and its surplus had been entirely wiped out. Through the operations of Clarence F. Birdseye, a promoter, of New York, he said, \$1,900,000 in actual cash had been secured from the company in two days. Of this amount, according to the commissioner, \$1,000,000 went to finance the Dore Lumber Company in North Carolina; \$400,000 went to pay certain alleged "dummy directors"; another \$400,000 went to promoters, and \$100,000 was dissipated in generous payments to men little known in the deal. The company was capitalized at \$1,000,000, and its assets amounted to \$24,000,000, protecting outstanding insurance of about \$115,000,000.

FRESNOY-EN-ARTOIS WAS CAPTURED BY CANADIANS

Our Infantry Reached the Foe Dugouts Before They Could Emerge.

Hundreds Forced to Surrender—Prisoners Amazed at Their Work.

London Cable.—The British attack was on a front of 12 miles in the region from east of Vimy southwards to the west of Quant. West of Quant and near Cherisy salients were driven into the German line, and the village of Fresnoy and enemy positions north and south of the village on a front of two miles and a trench system north of Oppy were captured and held by the British.

The Germans suffered severe losses in the attacks all along the line, and also lost hundreds of men made prisoner by the British.

(By Stewart Lyon, Canadian Press Correspondent With the Canadian Forces.)

Canadian Army Headquarters Cable.—Shortly before dawn this (Thursday) morning a Canadian column, composed of veteran troops, carried the fortified village of Fresnoy-en-Artois by storm.

Stories of prisoners and of our own wounded as to what occurred in Fresnoy, and the trenches which protected it, agree that the enemy, who, as at Arleux, had taken over the defence only a few hours before the assault, had lazily sought shelter from the fearful shell-fire to which he was subjected by descending into deep dugouts and to the cellars of houses. Our infantry followed closely behind the bursting shells and reached the enemy's dugouts before he could emerge. For the occupants of the dugouts that meant a horrible death by the hand of the dugout. Some of the Germans holding the trench to the north of Fresnoy did emerge from their dugouts and begin to fight. They speedily discovered that the Canadians, after passing over the wire and trench system, had posted men between the front line trench and the enemy's supports, and cut the German on the front line off from all chance to secure help. The men thus cut off were from the Rhénish provinces of Prussia. Practically an entire company of them surrendered under these circumstances, through officers with them, but while the greater part of the prisoners were taken in this way, others surrendered only when they could no longer carry a rifle or operate a machine gun. A captured enemy officer said there was not time to bring the machine guns of his company into action before the men were overwhelmed.

The capture of Fresnoy carried the Canadians almost a mile further than before on the way to Douai, which is only a little more than eight miles due east from the further point of today's advance. Since April 9 the line has been pushed eastward from Neuville St. Vaast, the jumping-off place of the Canadian army corps, a distance of almost six miles, under most adverse weather conditions during the greater part of the time. Now that nature smiles, the rate of progress is expected to be more rapid.

Fresnoy lay within the main Mericourt-Oppy position, which throughout its length, was strongly protected by wire entanglements 30 feet wide. For some days our artillery has been working overtime destroying this wire along a frontage of over two miles north and south of Fresnoy, as well as in front of the village. The ground has been searched by artillery fire for machine gun emplacements, which, when well concealed behind a trench, give a tremendous advantage to the defence.

Much ammunition is thus expended, but its free use saved the lives of many of our brave fellows to-day in the tangle of houses, or rather ruins of houses, through which they fought their way down to the eastern slope of the new line established. Many of the enemy must have been buried in the ruins of the houses destroyed in the last terrific burst of fire which preceded the assault.

Prisoners taken already number 10 officers and 200 of other ranks. What Vimy ridge and Arleux began Fresnoy completed. The Hun has been taught that it is a very dangerous thing to oppose men who go at winning a battle as if it were their job.

FOUGHT BITTERLY. (By R. T. Small, Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press.)

British Headquarters in France, Cable.—Arleux and Fresnoy had been crisscrossed with great defensive works and numerous loops of barbed wire. The Fresnoy garrison fought with great bitterness, and it was not until the Canadians had practically rounded the village that the survivors, cut off within, surrendered. The number of prisoners taken here was 200 men and seven officers. One of the officers spoke excellent English, and as a Canadian officer was conducting him to the rear he asked to see the positions from which the Germans were driven during the storming of Vimy ridge on April 9. He marvelled at the situation, and asked what Canadian division took the particular position he saw. When told it was the same division which captured him at Fresnoy to-day, he laughed, and said he could not believe it. He could not believe that any divisions in Vimy fight would be able to go on now, and shook his head incredulously.

TURKS WANT PEACE Without Conquest, and So Notify U. S. President.

Amsterdam via London, Cable.—A Vienna despatch quotes Talaat Bey, Turkish Vizier, as saying to a reporter for the Neue Freie Presse that Turkey did not seek conquest, but an honorable peace, and had so informed President Wilson. The Turkish premier is quoted as saying:

"Turkey went into the war for the defence of the country, and not with schemes of conquest. We wish an honorable peace, always have wished it, and so informed President Wilson. Our enemies refused the invitation, but as soon as they change their minds we are ready to negotiate an honorable peace."

Talaat Bey said that he regarded the Russian revolution as a development favorable to Turkey, as czarism aimed at her destruction.

FOE NAVY GUNS FACE CANUCKS

Enemy Brings Heavy Weapons to Stop Advance.

German Raid Beaten Off by Our Troops.

(By Stewart Lyon, Canadian Press Correspondent With the Canadian Forces.)

Canadian Headquarters in France, Cable.—The enemy is now thoroughly alarmed over our thrust toward Douai from Vimy Ridge, and he has increased his artillery fire on this part of the front. He is expending projectiles more freely now than at any time since our advance began. Among the new guns he has brought up is a long one of 14 inches calibre, probably originally meant for battle cruisers of the Hindenburg class. Shells fired from it appear to be of fairly recent make, although others of smaller calibre that were used a short time ago were armor-piercing, which would indicate a scarcity of ordinary high explosive ammunition.

This morning aeroplanes on our corps front temporarily blinded the enemy by destroying four of his observation balloons, while maintaining vigilant guard against enemy planes.

Enemy patrols in the region between Arleux and Fresnoy are very nervous and call for aid from their artillery at the slightest sign of abnormal activity on our front. They are clearly apprehensive of an attack on Fresnoy.

The Germans attempted to raid our lines last night, but failed to reach them. Some casualties were inflicted by us.

FEWER CATTLE IN ONTARIO

Live Stock Men Meet Resources Committee.

Great Chance for Married Labor On Farms.

Toronto Report.—The Organization of Resources Committee at their meeting yesterday had a conference with representative livestock men, including John Gardhouse, Weston, president Ontario Cattle Breeders' Association; J. Douglas, Cambridge, president Ontario Sheep Breeders' Association; J. C. Stuart, Osgoode, president Dominion Swine Breeders' Association; Wm. A. Dryden, Bracklin; Andrew Elliott, Galt; R. W. Stratton, Guelph; Chas. E. Potter, Toronto; Prof. G. E. Day, Guelph.

It was pointed out that the number of cattle has been decreasing steadily due to the increase in the cost of food and the high prices being paid for beef and pork.

Many farmers are now realizing the need of keeping their suitable heifer calves for milking and breeding purposes.

Emphasis was laid upon the great need for farm labor, there are many opportunities on the Ontario farms. Farmers are offering \$450 to \$600 per year, including a house and a plot of ground.

Permanent labor is in demand, and the farmers are disposed to accept inexperienced, but willing help. The Special Poultry Committee have undertaken to increase the number of chickens that will be raised, particularly in the urban sections. They will hold meetings throughout the province in conjunction with the 60 local Ontario poultry associations, and hope to secure the hearty co-operation of all the members of these local associations.

\$1,000,000 AID

By Munitions Board to Explosives Concern.

New York Report.—Former Governor Benjamin B. Odell and former Judge George F. Holt, as receivers for the Aetna Explosives Company, incorporated, were authorized by Federal Judge Mayer here to-day to enter into a contract with the Imperial Munitions Board of Great Britain for the sale to the latter of smokeless powder at 57 cents a pound, an increase of seven cents a pound over the price previously agreed upon between the board and the Aetna Chemical Company, Limited, a Canadian subsidiary of the Aetna Company.

Not only did the Munitions Board consent to the increased price, but it also agreed to advance \$1,000,000 as additional working capital to the Canadian company. The receivers explained that under this arrangement the Canadian branch would be able to repay some of its large obligations to the Aetna Company.

ONTARIAN KILLED.

Mystery as to Dentist's Death in Chicago.

Chicago Report.—A coroner's jury has been unable to decide yet whether Dr. Lewis T. Fisher, 28 years old, a dentist, at 1439 North Clark street, killed himself or was murdered. Dr. Fisher was found dead in his bedroom at 1517 North Clark street, on Monday morning with a bullet wound in his head. The body was discovered by Mrs. Ethel Burt, his housekeeper. The coroner's inquest was postponed until May 14 to permit the police to investigate. Mrs. Burt is in custody. Testimony at the inquest was of a nature which tended to support the theory that Dr. Fisher killed himself. Dr. Christian L. Fisher, of Chicago Heights, a brother of the dead man, charged that Mrs. Burt had threatened to kill his brother, Mrs. Burt stated that Fisher stood in front of a mirror and fired three shots, two of which missed.

The body was sent to Alliston, Ont., for burial. Relatives of the deceased live in Barrie, Ont.

RUSS PLANES BUSY.

Heavily Bomb a Town On the Danube.

Petrograd Cable.—The Russian official report says:

"On the Black Sea one of our biplane squadrons threw 120 bombs on Massadia, on the Danube. Great destruction was observed. Notwithstanding the enemy's heavy shrapnel fire all our machines returned unscathed."

"Yesterday we brought down a German airplane in eastern Galicia. The machine and its occupants were captured."

"On the Caucasian front weak efforts of the Turks to advance in the region southwest of Gumishkhan were defeated easily by us. In the direction of Kizilirmak our detachments occupied an island in the Djala River near Djumur, north of Khanikin."

FRENCH FLIES IN GOOD RAIDS

Enemy Barracks Fired, Stations, Factories Bombed.

Nineteen German Planes Were Wrecked.

Paris Cable.—The official communication issued by the War Office Thursday night reads:

"Quite spirited artillery actions have occurred in several sectors of the Aisne front. The Germans violently bombarded Rheims to-day. In the neighborhood of Bray-en-Laonnois one of our reconnoitering parties in the course of a raid on the German lines brought back about forty prisoners."

"In Champagne the artillery fighting was intermittent, there was no infantry action."

"On May 2 our pursuit aeroplanes displayed marked activity, in numerous combats our pilots brought down four German machines; fifteen others were seen falling in a damaged condition within their lines."

"In the night of April 29-30 one of our biplanes bombed the railway station and factories at Thionville. On the morning of May 1st our aeroplanes dropped 325 kilos of projectiles on the aviation camp at Sissonne; on the following night the same camp was bombarded with 2,000 kilos of explosives. A great fire was observed in the barracks."

"On the night of May 1-2 one of our aeroplanes bombed the railway station at Bethenville, Pont Faverges and Chatelet, a very violent fire, accompanied by several explosions breaking out."

SAFEGUARD BOYS ON FARMS.

Toronto Report.—The Provincial Farm Labor Bureau has been successful in securing many boys for work on the farms to increase food production. The bureau is taking extreme care in safeguarding the welfare of each boy. The boys are asked to catch the railway, the Farm Labor Bureau, groups of boy friends have enlisted, and they have been placed as far as possible on individual farms within a community. It is possible for them to meet occasionally and discuss the daily events without becoming overburdened and tired of their new work.

"A man should never talk about what he does not understand." "Well," replied Senator Sorghum, "sometimes he can get away with it, if he is sure his audience doesn't understand it."